

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2007

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1010**

### A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

HONORING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS, JAPANESE AMERICANS AND TUSKEGEE AIRMEN FOR THEIR PROUD, DIVERSE LEGACY OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1       Whereas, twenty years before the civil rights movement of the 1960s,  
2 young American men of diverse backgrounds served in the United States  
3 military service with great honor during World War II in three special  
4 fighting units that would impress on the public that loyalty and military  
5 service to America is above one's ancestry; and

6       Whereas, three minority groups -- the Navajo Code Talkers, Japanese  
7 Americans and the Tuskegee Airmen -- distinguished themselves by serving  
8 during World War II and served with outstanding valor in the United States  
9 military branches of the service. Their combined records are unparalleled in  
10 military history; and

11      Whereas, largely due to the outstanding service of the Code Talkers,  
12 Japanese Americans and the Tuskegee Airmen, President Harry Truman ended  
13 segregation in the armed forces in 1948 with Executive order No. 9981; and

14      Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese empire attacked Pearl  
15 Harbor, and the United States Congress declared war the following day; and

16      Whereas, the United States government called on the Navajo Nation to  
17 support the military effort by recruiting and enlisting twenty-nine Navajo  
18 men to serve as Marine Corps radio operators in 1942; and

19      Whereas, the Navajo Marine Corps radio operators, who became known as  
20 the "Navajo Code Talkers," developed a highly successful coded form of the  
21 Navajo language that ultimately numbered over 650 code terms that made it  
22 impossible for the Japanese enemy to decipher American battle messages about  
23 the times and places of attack, thereby greatly assisting in saving countless  
24 lives and hastening the end of World War II in the Pacific; and

25      Whereas, by 1945, the number of Navajo enlistees stood at approximately  
26 five hundred forty, with around four hundred of those serving as trained Code  
27 Talkers; and

28      Whereas, fifty-six years after the end of World War II, President  
29 George W. Bush presented the original 29 members with the Congressional Gold  
30 Medal of Honor in July, 2001. Unfortunately, of the 29 members, only 5 were  
31 alive to receive their medal of honor; and

32      Whereas, in November 2001, the remaining 400 Navajo Code Talkers  
33 received the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor in Window Rock, Arizona; and

34      Whereas, when the United States government and the public discovered  
35 that Japan was to blame for the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, misguided outrage  
36 was directed against Americans of Japanese descent. Patriotic Japanese  
37 American men in uniform were unfairly treated with suspicion; and

38      Whereas, many Japanese men enlisted from war detention camps where they  
39 and their families were incarcerated only because of their Japanese ancestry;  
40 and

41      Whereas, despite such discrimination against them, more than 20,000  
42 Japanese men enlisted. Many would later openly explain that they served to  
43 prove their loyalty to America; and

1       Whereas, the Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, including  
2 the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, became the most highly decorated unit for its  
3 size and length of service in American military history; and

4       Whereas, the Japanese American men fought across southern and central  
5 Europe, where their efforts included the famed rescue of the "lost" 211  
6 soldiers of a Texas battalion who were trapped by the German Army; and

7       Whereas, Japanese Americans also served with great distinction in the  
8 Pacific Theater in the United States Army's Military Intelligence Service.  
9 They are credited with shortening the war in the pacific by at least two  
10 years and saving countless lives through their use of the Japanese language  
11 to support Allied war effort; and

12      Whereas, Japanese Americans earned 21 Medals of Honor, an unprecedented  
13 9 Presidential Unit Citations and 9,486 Purple Hearts for their sacrifices  
14 during World War II; and

15      Whereas, in July 1941, thirteen young African-Americans began military  
16 flight training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Five of  
17 those thirteen young men completed training and received their Army Air Corps  
18 silver pilot wings, becoming our nation's first African-American military  
19 fighter pilots; and

20      Whereas, between 1941 and 1946, more than nine hundred men completed  
21 training to become part of what would later be known as the fearless and  
22 brave Tuskegee Airmen; and

23      Whereas, these Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military airmen in  
24 history. They trained as pilots and ground support crew, escorting bombers  
25 in over 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions; and

26      Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 200 combat missions without  
27 ever losing a bomber to enemy fire. These men served with great valor  
28 despite intense prejudice against them at home and abroad; and

29      Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen will receive the Congressional Gold Medal  
30 in 2007 for their outstanding record of service to our country.

31 Therefore,

32 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
33 Representatives, concurring:

34      1. That the Members of the Legislature officially recognize the  
35 outstanding contributions of the Navajo Code Talkers, the Japanese American  
36 Veterans and the Tuskegee Airmen for their successful service to the United  
37 States military and honor these remarkable individuals for their exceptional  
38 bravery and patriotism by supporting the creation of a commemorative postage  
39 stamp to honor their service during World War II.

40      2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
41 of this Resolution to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the United  
42 States Postal Service, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
43 of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the Navajo  
44 Nation, the Japanese American World War II veterans organizations and the  
45 Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated.